

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 8, line as follows:

The term encompasses alterations to the polynucleotide sequence, so long as the alteration results in a plant displaying one or more *dwf7* phenotypic traits (described below) when the polynucleotide is expressed in a plant. Such modifications typically include deletions, additions, and substitutions, to the native *dwf7* sequence, so long as the mutation results in a plant displaying a *dwf7* phenotype as defined below. These modifications may be deliberate, as through site-directed mutagenesis, or may be accidental, such as through mutations of plants which express the *dwf7* polynucleotide or errors due to PCR amplification. The term encompasses expressed allelic variants of the wild-type *dwf7* sequence which may occur by normal genetic variation or are produced by genetic engineering methods and which result in a detectable change in the wild-type *dwf7* phenotype. Two particular *dwf7* allelic variants described herein are *dwf7-1* and *dwf7-2*. Polypeptides corresponding to these variants include about amino acids ~~1-60~~ 1-230 and ~~1-230~~ 1-60, respectively, of Figure 9. However, the boundaries of these polypeptides may vary by 1 to 10 or more amino acids, or any integer therebetween. Thus, *dwf7-1* and *dwf7-2* polypeptides may include, for example, amino acids 1-229 ~~1-59~~ and 1-59 ~~1-229~~, respectively, or 3-232 ~~3-62~~ and 3-62 ~~3-232~~, respectively, and so on. Also described herein is a *dwf7* polynucleotide termed "*HDF7*." The term "*dwf7* polynucleotide" as used herein, is intended to encompass the *HDF7* polynucleotide. This polynucleotide is shown in Figures 10A-10F herein. The polypeptide encoded by *HDF7* is depicted at about positions 1-279 of Figure 11. As with the *dwf7-1* and *dwf7-2* polypeptides, the boundaries of the *HDF7* polypeptide may also vary by 1 to 10 or more amino acids, or any integer therebetween. These molecules are discussed in detail below.